



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 6:15 a.m. EST (NOAA)

### **Agricultural Weather Highlights - Monday - January 14, 2002**

- ***In the West***, colder air is spreading into ***California***, although temperatures remain well above the freezing mark (32 degrees F) in the ***San Joaquin Valley's citrus areas***. Meanwhile, mostly dry weather prevails in the ***Northwest***, following a two-month spell of beneficial, drought-easing precipitation.
- ***On the Plains***, little or no snow accompanied a weekend return to near-normal temperatures across ***northern areas***, following last week's record warmth. Mild weather continues, however, across the ***southern half of the Plains***, where today's high temperatures are forecast to range from 50 to 60 degrees F. Many winter wheat stands remains vulnerable to cold, windy weather due to unfavorably dry soils and a lack of snow cover.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, rain and snow showers are accompanying a return to near-normal temperatures. Nevertheless, producers and livestock continue to benefit from this winter's absence of harsh conditions.
- ***In the South***, showers are bringing additional drought relief to previously parched pastures and winter grains in the ***southern Atlantic region***.

**Outlook:** Cold air is forecast to gradually spread across the ***West and North*** as the week progresses. Some frost and near-freezing temperatures are possible as far ***south as California's San Joaquin Valley***, while temperatures below 0 degrees F may threaten drought-stressed winter wheat on the ***northern Plains***. Heavy precipitation is not expected for the remainder of the week, although occasional light snow is possible from the ***northern Plains into the Northeast***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for January 19-23 calls for above-normal temperatures in the ***South***, but cold weather across the remainder of the U.S. Mostly dry weather will prevail in the ***West***, but above-normal precipitation, including possible snow, is expected in most areas from the ***Rockies to the East Coast***.

***Contact:*** Brad Rippey, Agricultural Meteorologist, USDA/OCE/WAOB, Washington, D.C. (202-720-2397)